

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3.

The members of the Cabinet having tendered their resignations on Thursday, the 26th instant, His Majesty the King has been pleased to appoint the following to the same:

His Excellency W. L. DOWSETT, Minister of the Interior, and at the same time Minister of Foreign Affairs.

His Excellency H. B. STANLEY, Minister of Finance.

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On Wednesday last, Attorney General Hall resigned his seat in the Cabinet, which was followed the next day by the resignation of Mr. Widemann, Minister of the Interior. The new appointments appear in their appropriate place.

The withdrawal of the two Ministers named from the Cabinet took every one by surprise, for though it was generally known that there was not perfect harmony among the King's advisers, no one supposed that the difficulties that existed were of such a nature as would lead to a rupture.

The entire Cabinet possessed the full confidence of the people, and so far as is known, each was well fitted for his respective duties, and so long as they remained in office, the people felt perfect assurance in the administration of public affairs.

We are not yet satisfied that the difficulties referred to were so great as to have prevented the adoption of a compromise which might have saved the country from the shock which a crisis of this nature is calculated to give. Probably no Ministerial Cabinet in any country are perfectly united on all questions of policy that come up before them, and it is only by yielding to what appears to be the wiser course that conflicting ideas can be harmonized.

A sudden change of ministry, possessed of the full confidence of the community, is at any time a misfortune, inasmuch as it tends to create distrust and suspicion, and to weaken the government, which needs all the support and co-operation which it can obtain not only from the masses, but from the nobles and men of influence, whether subjects or not, without whose support no administration can expect to prosper.

But when the rupture occurs for no assigned reason, this distrust will be heightened. To maintain the credit and good name of the government should be the aim of all, and any act on the part of the government productive of a different result, is much to be regretted, especially when followed, as in this instance, by an incomplete cabinet.

In this light, the late change can only be viewed as a misfortune to the government and to the community at large, tending to make all uneasy, and create a restlessness which can result in no good, and may do much harm.

The reasons which led to the dissolution of the Cabinet have not transpired, except the statement made in the Legislative Assembly, that it was on account of a want of harmony on questions of policy. But we are left to infer that it was in connection with the appropriation bill, which the Attorney General, it is understood, wished to have brought within the limits of the estimated receipts.

If this be so, it would be but justice to this ex-minister to have it publicly known. If it be true that he was obliged to resign his seat through patriotic efforts to make the budget of expenses as small as possible, then the people should be made acquainted with the true facts in the case, and they have a right to know them.

There is some mystery attached to the recent dissolution of the Cabinet, which it is not wise to seek to cover up. When a Minister in England goes out of office, it is sometimes on account of internal disagreements, but in a majority of cases it arises from a defeat before the Commons. In either case the people are informed of the causes, and endorse or reject the defeated Minister.

The Legislature has made but little progress the past week, which may be accounted for in part by the dissolution of the Cabinet, and the formation of a new one. The temper of the House, too, seems to be very much changed, and less disposition has been shown to carp at Ministers, and raise frivolous questions than in the earlier part of the session. It would be surprising, indeed, if the present crisis, which may not yet be ended, did not teach Representatives the necessity of more harmony in conducting the work before them.

A newly-organized government, as is that of His Majesty, cannot be expected to be so well prepared to take up the public business, as were the Ministers who sat in previous Legislatures, and had long been familiar with the details of their work.

The APPROPRIATION BILL was yesterday returned by the special committee to which it had been referred, but without recommending any changes in it. On a motion of the Attorney General, amended slightly by Mr. Dowsett, it was handed over to the Ministers, who will probably report it back immediately, cut down so as to bring it within the estimated receipts for the current biennial period. The special committee, which had it in their possession to revise, were not perhaps very shrewd in permitting its withdrawal without at least attempting to amend it, and bring it more in harmony with public expectations. But this was a task from which they naturally shrank, and in relieving themselves of it, they have chosen the easiest mode of evading the task, though it indicates a want of sagacity in securing the credit of what must be a popular stroke of policy.

An interesting presentation.

The Friend for this month contains an account of a presentation from the people of Hanalei to the American Minister Resident, His Ex. H. A. Pierce, as an expression of their sentiments towards the American Nation for the timely aid afforded during the riot, by the troops from the U. S. ships of war Portsmouth and Tascara.

It was made by the Hon. D. Kawika, representative from Hanalei, in the following noble address. It will be remembered that Mr. K. was one of the members, who during the riot, was robbed and nearly killed by the mob:

"Sir—In the name of the people of the District of Hanalei, I beg to deliver to you their present of four beef cattle, a token of their appreciation of your generous course in affording the aid of the war vessels of your government in quelling the disturbance in the City of Honolulu on the 13th February, 1874. Trusting that you will receive this gift as a proof of their great love to your country."

Minister Pierce responded as follows:

Mr. KAWIKA—"My sentiments are deeply touched by this noble and generous act of the people of the District of Hanalei, and I accept it as a proof of the love, gratitude and friendship they bear for the government and people of the United States; feelings which are fully reciprocated by us."

"The military demonstration made by the United States forces on the occasion you allude to, was prompted by our great regard for the best interests of your nation; and it is gratifying to know that the service then rendered, has been justly appreciated by your countrymen."

"That timely intervention in favor of law and order, probably saved the life of the Representative (Mr. Kawika) from Hanalei, and was a Presidential return, perhaps of the highest order, for the people of your district, who in December, 1870, showed so much humanity and kindness to the sole survivor and those drowned, of a boat's crew wrecked near Hanalei, belonging to the U. S. S. Saginaw, cast away at Ocean Island, and who were sent from thence to seek the means for the rescue of those shipwrecked."

Duty to my government may seem to dictate the declining to receive the offering of your good people; but a proper regard for Hawaiian customs in such cases, and the delicacy of feeling which forbids wounding the sentiments of others by a refusal, compels me to accept the gift, with permission, however, to donate the same to the Sailors' Home, of Honolulu, an institution existing for the benefit of the seamen of all nations visiting this place. To you personally, and to your noble constituents, I offer my sincere thanks for kindly manifestations of their regard."

The Fijian Group.

Much interest attaches to anything pertaining to the Fijis, which may be termed our nearest southern neighbors. They bear the same relation to Australia that our group does to America. They are the West Indies of the South Pacific, as we are called the West Indies of the North Pacific. Whatever reliable information is obtainable relating to the Fijis, will be read with interest here and elsewhere. We have therefore inserted in full on our fourth page Mr. Murray's valuable sketch of the political situation in that group, and assure the reader that it may be relied on as a true and impartial statement by an eye witness. In continuation of the sketch of the Fijis, we give below an account of them, so far as relates to their social and commercial position, furnished to us by Lieut. Lardner, B. N., who has resided there for some time, and is now en route for England. It will be found exceedingly interesting, and no less reliable than that on the fourth page:

"Fiji is at the present moment in a doubtful position, and may in a few months be a British colony, or falling this, fall back into a worse condition than it has lately been in. However, annexation is looked forward to with reasonable hope; for the British Commissioners, who completed their report more than two months since, have expressed themselves in favor of it. Its geographical position has very lately come to be of great importance. It is now a centre from which mail steamers diverge to Honolulu and San Francisco, north; to New Zealand and New South Wales, south; and shortly to operate branches to Tahiti, eastward, and to New Caledonia and Brisbane, Queensland, westward. The distance from Fiji to Sydney is nearly the same as from Honolulu to San Francisco."

The white population is of a very mixed character—English, Americans, Germans and a few Swedes compose it. By a large majority British subjects predominate, most of these having come from the Colonies, but not a few are men from England, Ceylon, and Canada, amongst whom are retired Naval and Military officers, and some men of talent and ability. These, together with some retired successful New Zealand shipbuilders, comprise the body of planters who are scattered over the group. Those among them who are married have their wives and families on the plantations, in various degrees of comfort. The white population is between 1500 and 2000 and that of the natives is estimated at 100,000. They are an indolent and peaceable people, of a remarkably interesting character.

That cotton culture has not only failed to pay but proved a loss to those engaged in it is now too well known, but for the planters a new era is dawning. There is plenty of good sugar and good coffee land. This has already been tested, and capital only is wanted now to develop these industries. Large sugar mills and machinery have already arrived in Fiji, while small mills have for some time been worked successfully, and hundreds of acres are now under sugar cultivation. Coffee is now also being planted, and a few small plantations are already in full bearing. These show that the plant will bear in these years, and as with cotton produce two crops a year.

Maize or Indian corn produces three crops a year. The yield under proper cultivation is not known, for none has been cultivated except by hand. New Zealand is its principal market, where it brings from five to six shillings per bushel, and at Levuka three shillings can now be obtained for it per bushel. A steamer running constantly between this port and Auckland, and with all its crops has been done either with long knives or by axes, and consequently necessitates a great deal of labor, which is however easily procured and not expensive.

The ground or pea not is very productive, and were there a market for any quantity in the colonies it would prove very profitable, the yield being about a ton per acre, and it has realized in Auckland last year five pence a pound, but the demand is very limited. Attention is now also drawn to the value of forming cocoa-nut plantations, and some are being laid out on a large scale. At the island of Rambi the enterprising proprietor has planted 450 acres of this valuable tree, and another has planted 300 acres on the island of Tavuni. It bears in five or six years, according to the care bestowed upon it, and the estimated return per acre is one ton of copra, and over one ton of fibre.

An excellent arrow-root is produced from an indigenous plant, but fails to suit the colonial merchants, who prefer paying more for the article supposed to be the product of the Borneo plant. The cassava grows wild, as does also a ginger and nutmeg, both of which will no doubt attain a market value in time. The cassia-root tree, both useful and ornamental, is very abundant and will bear two years. A patent for a machine designed to break the shell and remove the kernel has lately been taken out in Fiji. Kava, the same as the Hawaiian *ava*, is much cultivated and used by the natives, and some of the roots have been purchased in New Zealand at three shillings per pound. Yams and taro they also cultivate largely, and these form their staple article of diet.

Of the profitable tropical plants which have been tried experimentally we may mention the Jamaica nutmeg, pimento, cinnamon, camphor, tamarind, litchi and longan trees, as also the mango, guava, alligator pear, lemon, citron, lime, indigo, Annona and China grass-plant, all of which grow luxuriantly.

Fijian natives, from a very few parts of the group, will come and work on plantations but only for one year. Foreign laborers, that is labor imported from the New Hebrides, Solomon and Line Islands, will come for three years. They are much preferred to Fijians, and work well without the constant watching that a Fijian requires. Happily kidnapping among the islands is now done away with and the labor question is being thoroughly examined in its details by Mr. Lardner, Her Britannic Majesty's Consul and Commissioner in the group, whose incessant energy has already resulted in much benefit to the laborer.

There is at present an *ad interim* government consisting of the Foreign Consul, (English, American, German and Hawaiian), the Chief Justice and two ministers, one being the King's nominee, and which is managing the affairs of the country until the reply shall be received from Great Britain in regard to the proposed cession of the group to that Power. Already the debt of the country is over £20,000, and together with the claims against the late government amounts to about £100,000.

The climate is of a moist heat, but may be said to be healthy, fever and ague being unknown, though swampy patches abound in the group. Dysentery has in various cases proved fatal, but seldom under proper medical treatment, and cannot be said to be common. It is however very local. Young European children thrive remarkably well. Invalids troubled with asthma find relief in Fiji from this climate.

The mean temperature of the heat is 83° Fahr. As with other islands of the South Sea, it is subject to be swept over by cyclones during the months of January, February and March. Much damage is sometimes caused by these storms, and crops of cotton have suffered severely. Mosquitoes and flies are very numerous and annoying, but no venomous snake or spider has been found, and even the centipede is comparatively harmless.

The rainfall is considerable, especially on the windward side of the islands, and most of the country is well watered. Many of the islands abound in excellent timber trees, and two or three saw mills are already in operation. On clearing the timber lands for forming plantations in some parts of the group, a tobacco comes up spontaneously when the timber is burnt off. This tobacco is excellent, and has been cultivated, the crop being about four cwt. to the acre, and realizing from 6d. per lb. in Levuka.

Levuka the capital is situated on the east side of the island of Ovalau, and on approaching it from seaward, presents to the eye a pretty scene, nestling as it does at the foot of a mass of mountains which are covered to their summits with vegetation. The town, however, is mostly confined to the beach, for very little land is available back of it. Private residences are scattered on the sides of the hills, which have been termed for the purpose, and these add to the picturesque of the scene. There are one or two good hotels, with Anglican, Wesleyan, and Roman Catholic Churches, a hospital, gale, Supreme Court and Government buildings. Also many store houses, a photographer, and two chemists. Three medical practitioners reside here. A Bank is also established by New Zealand enterprise, and English coin is current. Ice and soda water are manufactured, and two butchers supply excellent beef and mutton. The supply of potatoes is always kept up from the Colonies.

The harbor is capacious and easy of entrance, by two channels through the coral reefs. Vessels can enter at any time of night, and a pilot is not necessary. The combined facts may fairly lead us to presume that the Fijis will be the "West Indies" of Australia.

Shall we have a Public Park?

The *Advertiser* attempts to ridicule our suggestion of converting the new Government House into a palace, and of opening up the present palace grounds as a public park. The ideas thrown out by us are by no means new, but are shared and endorsed by a large portion of our community. The changes proposed are so well calculated to subserve the public interest, that they carry conviction with them, and are approved by almost every body.

They are of course all based on the necessity of erecting a new structure for a palace. If this is not required, then the case is entirely altered. But it is well known that the present palace buildings are all going to ruin, and are untenable, compelling His Majesty to rent premises elsewhere to live in. The plans for a palace, furnished from Sydney some two or three years since, would require an expenditure of well nigh two hundred thousand dollars to complete it. Of course we have not any such amount to spend for it, but the sum of \$60,000 has been appropriated each session for several years past, and may be again; and if a palace is ever built, it will cost at least \$100,000, before it is completed.

Admitting the necessity of a palace, sooner or later, the next question is, where, and what shall it be? The fact that the new government building is not located in the most convenient place, at once suggests the thought that it may serve for a palace. But some say that it is too large. Not at all. Or if thought to be so, shut up the south or north wing, or both, and furnish and use only what may be needed. To furnish the portion required would call for no greater sum than for a new palace, and as \$20,000. And as for keeping it in order, no larger number of servants will be required than for a smaller building. In short, on the score of economy, it can easily be proved to be the best arrangement that can be devised.

But it is chiefly from the other changes incident to this appropriation of the new building, that the public would derive the greatest advantages. The erection of a new moderately-sized government building, of better plan and proportions to serve the public business, to be located between the court-house and custom-house, so as to make three public buildings convenient and handy to each other, and to the business portion of the city—would be a great improvement. Such a building can be put up for \$60,000, and completed in two years from this date.

Then, we should have the old court-house, used for the police head quarters, police court, and station-house, all under one roof, with ample conveniences for all branches of this service, and perhaps other offices. Standing in the rear of the site occupied by Thompson's blacksmith shop, and enclosed with a substantial wall or fence, would be the new "Honolulu Hall"—an ornament to the city and a convenience to the government service and the public. Next would be the custom-house and public warehouses, all easy of access. These fine buildings, concentrating in them all the public services, while they became the admiration of those who might visit us, would largely enhance the value of the public property around them, and bring it into demand.

But perhaps this is the least of the benefits to be derived from this change. By throwing open the palace grounds to the public, ornamenting them with groves and walks, it would provide for us a public park where old and young, rich and poor, the invalid or the robust, the stranger and the native born—all might seek health and pleasure. Who would not feel proud of his country after the proposed improvements were furnished? Who would be ashamed to point to that as the residence of the King of Hawaii, and this as the park which he, with true patriotism and generosity, had granted to be a perpetual blessing to the people of Hawaii?

The theory of Hawaiian titles, and the magnetic declination have received some attention. The latter for this island, at points remote from the influence of the mountains is 9° 12' E., probably still increasing. It has increased on Hawaii about 40' in 25 years. It is to be regretted that the party has not been enabled to confine itself more strictly to triangulation, until this most necessary part of the work is completed. There still remains a huge amount of boundary settling to be done—a burden which hangs like an incubus upon the prosperity of much of the real estate.

Not the least laborious nor least useful duty of the Surveyor General has been the making out of an index or list of such government lands as have been disposed of by sale and of such as remain. Information of this sort has been sometimes very difficult to obtain on account of the lack of general maps.

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